

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION est. 1939

January 2003 Newsletter

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Snowflake Greetings!

and Happy New Year! What a winter we've been having! A real one, with actual snow that you can paint. RVAA should have a place to exhibit in February, and we can call the exhibit "Winter 2003", for haven't you all been trying your hand at snow pix! Actually, RVAA DOES HAVE a juried SHOW coming up at the Somerset Cultural & Heritage Gallery in the administration building on Grove St., Somerville. We really need a chair for this. The month is MARCH but we must have a chairperson. Not too much work is involved--please call President Linda Arnold at 908/647-3610, if you can help.

Monday, January 27th is our first meeting in 2003, 7:30 pm at the Somerset County Library, and our demonstrator is Diana Patton (yes, I'm it)-- so of course, watercolor is involved, and clayboard, as well as paper. I'll be doing some mini-demos, involving animal painting, among some other bits, and.....giving out some helpful hints on drawing, as well. I'll bring some finished work, of course, and some "in progress", and I'll encourage lots of questions, as well. So do come out, and learn and play with me! (Looking ahead, Feb's date is the 24th).

RVAA had a festive Holiday Dinner at McCarthy's Restaurant in Bridgewater thanks to Nona Rutter. We all had a great time, and we appreciate all your time and effort, Nona! Featured was the "White Elephant" surprise gift table, and if these were white elephants, it was a good year for white elephants. The meal was delicious, as was the conversation, and we had readings by Eleanor DeMott, Diana Patton, and Ruth Wilson. Our Holiday Show & Sale at the Somerset County Library is over and the results are in. Twenty-three artists participated. A big thankyou goes out to Mary Ann Creasy for signing in artists, and helping a lot as your chair, D. Patton, couldn't be in two places at once, and was mainly showing artists where to exhibit. We had a lot of hours of show sitting, and lots of good comments. Six artists sold work, and \$1,614. was taken in, of which 10% goes to the library. Our treasurer Marian Cornwell is working on the receipts and checks now, and we thank her for that.

Incidentally, we had about 250 really good pieces up for this show, and your editor thinks it was a great one. Now if only the general public would do the right thing and buy paintings for holiday gifts. A chance to exhibit--the Soriano family of Somerville has a large catering business, and one of their establishments, "Madeline's on Vosseller" (V. Rd., Bridgewater/Bound Brook border) has room for paintings. Both very large and small paintings can be exhibited, and if you're interested in exhibiting, you may phone me at 908/722-0562. I won't run this all the time, but I will set up the first exhibit, and so the first three of you who phone, could probably put up 3-4 works which would remain in place for 2-3 months.

Currently at the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Gallery, County Administration Bldg., Grove St., Somerville, is a juried (by Carl Burger) statewide watercolor exhibit. The artists' reception is Tues. night, Jan. 21st, 7-8:30 pm, and the show, which began Dec. 16, will run until Jan 24. You might want to look at this gallery space where RVAA will exhibit in March. Others may be in the show as well, but your editor knows that RVAA members Bill Gilbert, Jack Hand, Elsa Herrmann, Diana Patton, Jaclyn Weighart, Sonja Weir, and Ruth Wilson are included in this show.

The Princeton University Art Museum, right on the campus, is open to the public without charge. Free highlights tours of the collection (which is really good, and includes Monet) are given every Saturday at 2:00 pm. The museum is open Tues-Sat from 10-5 and Sundays 1-5. For further info, please call 609/258-3788 or visit their new web site at www.princetonartmuseum.org. Featured now are "The Arts of Asia" among other exhibits. "Seeing the Unseen: Abstract Photography, 1900-40" will be shown Feb. 4-March 23rd. Also upcoming, "Photographs by Edward Ranney" Feb. 15-June 7 and the "Art of Structural Design: a Swiss Legacy", March 8-June 15th.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

DIANA PATTON won Honorable Mention, Watercolor, in the St. John the Baptist Show at Marguerite House in Mendham.

And HERE IS WHERE YOUR NAME should be. Please. Please mail me some of your news. Where are you exhibiting? Are you teaching a workshop? Invented a new painting technique? Won a ribbon? Have news of a new show? RVAA appreciates YOUR NEWS. 497 Stony Brook Dr, Bridgewater 08807.